

REPORT

TO: GB Community Board
FROM: Chairperson
REFERENCE: E855
DATE: 31st May 2005
SUBJECT: Monthly Report for June 2005

Activities, events and meetings attended during the month included:

May 2 - Board Agenda

The Agenda for the 10th May GB Community Board meeting was discussed and set.

May 4 - Elections Enquiry

Telephone conference call with the Parliamentary Select Committee Enquiry into the 2004 Local Authority Elections. Key points of the Community Board submission were reiterated and questions from the Committee answered. Golden Bay was one of the few community boards to make a submission and our contribution was appreciated by the Committee.

May 4 – Onekaka Hall Triennial General Meeting

The previous committee was largely re-elected for another term. It was interesting to note from the previous TGM minutes the many tasks that have been undertaken during the past three years including removal of pine trees and painting inside and out of the Hall and completion of the tennis court mural. The next major project is an extension to the Hall to provide a storage room, verandah and deck.

The well-used Hall and grounds are in great shape and full credit is due to the committee and others in the community who have worked on it.

May 6 – John Mitchell Memorial Service

A large attendance gathered at the Onekaka Hall to pay tribute to John Mitchell who passed away on May 1. John had touched the lives of many with his wonderful works and love of nature and the Arts. He will be greatly missed.

May 8 – Collingwood Hall Meeting

This was primarily called to discuss the quote for the re-surfacing of the main Hall floor. It was resolved that the quote (\$18,000) was excessive and that further quotes would be obtained before any decision would be made. Questions were asked about the consented rock work along the Estuary behind the Hall. These were forwarded to Community Services who advise that discussions are underway with contractors.

May 13 – Fresh FM Radio Interview

This was on topics discussed during the May 10th Community Board meeting.

May 16 – GB Community Board Annual Plan Submissions Meeting

The Board worked through the Annual Plan and commented on matters raised during the eight community meetings, the Board's priority setting meeting and subsequent Board meetings.

May 20 – Engineering Infrastructure Tour of Golden Bay

The Board together with Engineering Services and support staff inspected infrastructure such as roads, footpaths, water supply, waste water services, Tarakohe Wharf and Refuse facilities across the Bay from Tata to Collingwood. It was very helpful for the whole Board to see sites and discuss issues on the spot; a most useful day.

May 23 – Kindergarten Meeting

Called by the Ministry on the recent postal survey on early childhood education services in Golden Bay. It soon became apparent that much of the data was dated and the survey was flawed. When combined with the so-called National Matrix the policy is loaded against areas such as Golden Bay. We need to make strong representations to have these matters fairly addressed. Damien O'Connor was in attendance and it was clear from his comments that there is room for further consideration of the methodology and policy which was first introduced in 1995.

May 24 – Tukurua Camp Road

Met with the owner and manager of the Golden Bay Holiday Camp at Tukurua. The 1km road servicing properties alongside it and the camp at the end is privately owned and it is falling into disrepair. Elsewhere, this road would have been formed to the appropriate standard and then handed to Council as part of a subdivision consent. The road needs to be brought up to standard before TDC will accept responsibility for it. Efforts need to be made to explore ways for this to happen. The low trafficked rural road contributory scheme has been suggested.

May 24 – Community Whanau Meeting

Keith Preston briefed the meeting on Housing issues confronting the Nelson/Tasman area and outlined efforts to date. There are new opportunities under the Housing Innovation Fund and a grant has been obtained for a feasibility study.

May 26 – Keep Golden Bay Beautiful Meeting

The monthly meeting discussed progress on the application for the Takaka River Oxbow project as part of the Cobb Dam mitigation funding allocation. Additional information had been sought and supplied. The proposed Collingwood Reservoir Arbor Day planting project discussed. A response from the Engineering Department is still awaited. Working bees to release Onekaka riparian plantings are planned.

May 29 – Friends of Mangarakau Swamp AGM

Attended the AGM at Mangarakau as the TDC representative. Prior to the meeting a pest control discussion was held with avian expert David Butler. An extensive trapping programme has resulted in many stoats and rats caught.

Jock Lee, who is leaving the district, stood down as Chair and John Gilardi was elected in his stead. The remaining committee was re-elected. Work over the past year has included planting and releasing, track work, weed and pest control, cleaning up of rubbish, building repairs and maintenance. Several research programmes have been undertaken by various agencies including Victoria University, Comprehensive botanical and zoological inventories have been compiled.

Full credit is due to the small team of core workers.

Issues

Rural Numbering

It is understood that the rural numbering contract for Golden Bay has been signed and the work will commence shortly.

Golden Bay Environment Centre

The Centre has had its funding application turned down by the Ministry for the Environment. This is a great pity because, after an uncertain start, the Centre has been making good progress. Co-ordinator Charlotte Squires and marine biologist Dr Tracey Osbourne have been working with the Community Board towards a Golden Bay Marine Management Plan consultative process. The Environment Centre deserves funding support.

Tradable Water Rights

A recent TDC meeting was held to discuss a model for tradable water rights put forward by Canterbury University. I believe that trading water rights away from the

land for which they were obtained is quite wrong. If a property has surplus water rights then these should be relinquished for re-allocation to others. Water is the basis of life but has become a \$1 trillion industry with access becoming controlled by multi-nationals at the expense of local economies.

Uruwhenua Burn-off

Following enquiries from Uruwhenua residents, together with the matter raised during the May Public Forum, questions have been asked about the current policies in the proposed Tasman Resource Management Plan.

Originally planned as a land clearance, the burn-off then held as a 'fire training exercise' does raise questions which need to be addressed by the policy. Such fires should still require resource consent because the effects still need to be avoided, remedied or mitigated. To ignore such effects is contrary to rules and policies which apply in other controlled fire situations.

Service Centres Manager's Resignation

It was with regret that we learnt of the recent resignation of Service Centres Manager, Darla Blake-Gillard for health reasons. Darla had held the position for three and a half years and had provided administrative support to both community boards as part of her role. We were looking forward to working with her throughout this term too, but sadly it was not to be. I am sure that past and present Board members wish Darla well and we extend our thanks to her for the support she has provided.

Joe Bell